

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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R 031537Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5107

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS ON SINO-U.S., SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 17847

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO PEKING WAS FULLER THAN USUAL, BUT IMPLIED THAT THE VISIT HAD DONE LITTLE TO STRENGTHEN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. MEANWHILE MOSCOW HAS REPLAYED BREZHNEV'S REJECTION OF PEKING'S ANNIVERSARY PROPOSALS IN A MAJOR LEADERSHIP SPEECH AND IN A DETAILED PRAVDA COMMENTARY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIET PRESS REPORTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PEKING FAIRLY FULLY, INCLUDING ALMOST DAILY SUMMARIES OF HIS ACTIVITIES THERE. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA (NOVEMBER 30)

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CARRIED EXCERPTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE INCLUDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT

THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL VISIT CHINA NEXT YEAR, WHILE IZVESTIYA (NOVEMBER 29) CITED FOREIGN PRESS COMMENTS THAT NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS MADE IN STRENGTHENING SINO-U.S. RELATIONS. PRAVDA (DECEMBER 1) AND IZVESTIYA (NOVEMBER 30) REPLAYED A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT THE CHINESE HAD NOT PUT STRONG PRESSURE ON THE U.S. CONCERNING TAIWAN AND THAT THE U.S. SAW NO NEED TO REVISE ITS RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN. BY SOME CIRCUITOUS LOGIC, PRAVDA CALLED THIS A "MANEUVER OF PEKING'S DIPLOMACY."

3. PRESIDENT PODGORNYY, SPEAKING ON NOVEMBER 29 IN DUSHANBE ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TADZHIKISTAN REPUBLIC AND PARTY, REITERATED BREZHNEV'S REJECTION OF PEKING'S NOVEMBER 6 MESSAGE (REFTEL). ADDING RHETORICAL FLOURISHES, PODGORNYY LAMENTED THE HARD LOT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE UNDER THE "SOCIAL-CHAUVINISTIC" IDEAS OF MAOISM; "LIKE A SHIP WHICH HAS LOST ITS COURSE, THE PRC DRIFTS FURTHER FROM THE SOCIALIST SHORE."

4. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW OF WORLD AFFAIRS (DECEMBER 1), WRITTEN BY VLADIMIR YERMAKOV, ALSO REPEATED EXCERPTS FROM BREZHNEV'S ULAN BATOR SPEECH, INCLUDING THE FORMULATION THAT MOSCOW DOES NOT ACCEPT PEKING'S DEFINITION OF "DISPUTED AREAS." ADDRESSING WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ABOUT PEKING'S ALLEGED "NEW" PROPOSALS FOR "NORMALIZATION," YERMAKOV SAID CATERGORICALLY THAT "THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING NEW IN THESE PROPOSALS." HE ROUTINELY REITERATED THAT MOSCOW REALLY DOES SEEK BETTER RELATIONS, THEN LAUNCHED INTO THE NEED FOR A SYSTEM OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY IN ASIA. YERMAKOV'S PIECE IS THE MOST DIRECT PRESS COMMENTARY THUS FAR ON THE CHINESE MESSAGE, ON THE WESTERN PRESS REPORTS ABOUT IT AND ON THE OFFICIAL SOVIET REJECTION. HIS TREATMENT AND PODGORNYY'S EXPAND BREZHNEV'S REJECTION AND ADD POLEMICAL FUEL TO THE NEW ROUND OF PROPAGANDA FIRES.

STOESSEL

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